

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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PRS-01 SAJ-01 /064 W

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R 171604Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 684

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7913

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS, XF, IZ

SUBJ: VISIT OF IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT TO SPAIN

REF: USINT BAGHDAD 865

1. IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN, WHO BEGAN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN DECEMBER 9, ENDED VISIT DECEMBER 13, TWO DAYS EARLIER THAN PLANNED. ALLEGING ILLNESS OF VICE PRESIDENT, PARTY MADE HURRIED DEPARTURE FROM SPAIN IN SPECIAL IRAQ AF PLANE, CUTTING SHORT REMAINING CEREMONIAL AND TOURISTIC EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR SOUTHERN SPAIN, THOUGH ALL SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF VISIT WERE BY THEN COMPLETED. (MFA SOURCE LATER CONFIRMED THAT HUSSEIN WAS IN CONSIDERABLE PAIN DURING LAST DAYS OF VISIT BECAUSE OF SLIPPED DISC.)

2. DURING VISIT HUSSEIN CALLED ON FRANCO, PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, WHO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO VISIT IRAQ. TALKS WERE HELD WITH MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS, FINANCE, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, PLANNING

AND PRESIDENCY, AND WITH THEIR LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS.

3. ON POLITICAL SIDE, COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED IRAQI CONCERN OVER "CRITICAL SITUATION IN GULF AND REGION," WITH BOTH SIDES AGREEING TO NEED FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF AREA'S PROBLEMS BASED ON "PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION, INTERNATIONAL LAW, TREATIES AND UN CHARTER." THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT PEACE IN NEAR EAST MUST BE BASED ON "LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND GUARANTEE OF FULL RIGHTS TO PALESTINIANS." IRAQI DELEGATION EXPRESSED IN COMMUNIQUE HIGH REGARD FOR GOS ATTITUDE, "UNIQUE IN ITS FIRMNESS," ON PALESTINE AND GENERAL ARAB PROBLEM.

4. ON SAHARA ISSUE, COMMUNIQUE STATES ONLY THAT "SPAIN EXPLAINED ITS POSITION," WITH ENSUING EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE BY BOTH SIDES THAT MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED IN WAY WHICH FURTHER STRENGTHEN ALREADY EXCELLENT SPANISH-ARAB RELATIONS NOW AND IN FUTURE.

5. COMMENTING ON POLITICAL CONTENT OF DISCUSSION, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS (FERRER) SAID KEY OBJECTIVE OF IRAQIS WAS TO GET SOME EXPRESSION OF GOS SUPPORT ON KURD QUESTION AND ON CONFLICT WITH IRAN. FERRER FELT GOS SUCCESSFULLY SIDE-STEPPED THIS TRAP, DECLINING IN COMMUNIQUE EVEN TO IDENTIFY "GULF" AND "REGION." HE SAID IRAQIS SIMILARLY AVOIDED ANYTHING MORE COMPROMISING IN COMMUNIQUE THAN SIMPLY HEARING EXPLANATION OF SPANISH POSITION ON SAHARA. BUT HE ADDED THAT IRAQIS BROUGHT NO PRESSURE TO BEAR ON SAHARA ISSUE AND ONLY EXPRESSED IN FRIENDLY AND GENERAL TERMS ARABS' HOPES THAT SPAIN WOULD FIND WAY TO SETTLE IT.
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